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## (54) Communications network monitoring

(57) The disclosure relates to a method of monitoring a communications network comprising a plurality of node equipment, eg switches, and link equipment, eg fibre optic links, in which performance parameters of individual components of the node equipment are used to determine an overall performance parameter for the node equipment. By comparing like performance parameters for individual network elements, the performance of different types of network element can be compared with each other. Parameters which can be monitored include quality of service, cell discard cell loss and other measures of network performance. Connection tracing through the plurality of node equipment and link equipment is also achieved by identifying the communications connection across a plurality of network elements (221), collecting data signals containing data of an operational parameter (223, 225) processing the collected signals (224, 226) and displaying the processed data relating to the identified network elements (227).

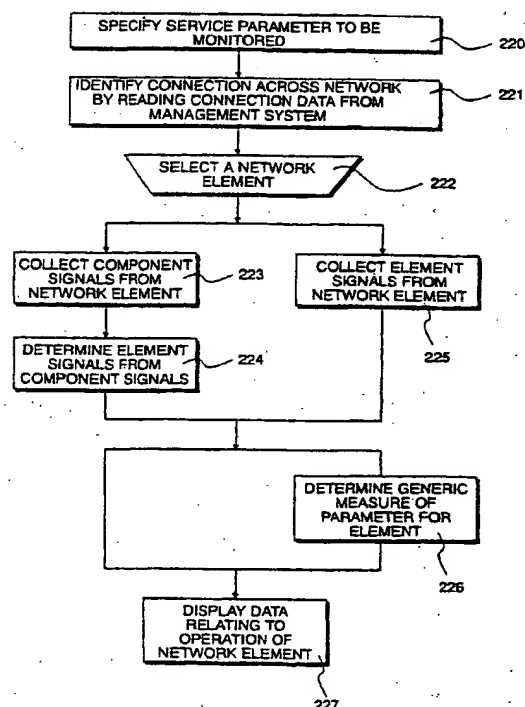


FIG 22



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 97 30 5900

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	BROCK J D: "TINGLE A SUITE FOR MONITORING NETWORKS" COMMUNICATIONS FOR DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS AND SYSTEMS, CHAPEL HILL, APR. 18 - 19, 1991, no. CONF. 4, 18 April 1991, pages 235-242, XP000278452 INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS	1-3, 6, 7	H04L12/24 H04L12/26
Y	* the whole document *	8	
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A	* abstract; figures 1-3, 5, 6, 8 * * page 1, line 1 - page 11, line 6 * * claims 1-11 *	1-7	
A	TOLLY K: "TMON: A RAY OF HOPE FOR TOKEN RING MANAGERS" DATA COMMUNICATIONS, vol. 24, no. 14, 1 October 1995, pages 72-76, 78 - 80, XP000533348 * the whole document *	1-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H04L
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 9 December 1998	Examiner Cichra, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/92 (P4/C31)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 97 30 5900

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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